# COOKING WITH 'PORTLANDIA'

THE COMEDY OFFERS SOME SERIOUS RECIPES. PAGES 18-19

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## GPS led authorities to abducted woman

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## There's an inflatable, cute bot in 'Big Hero 6'

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## SuicideGirls get their sexy cool geek on

PAGES 16-17

# THE FINAL FRONTIER

**To the stars.** Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar" takes the filmmaker — plus Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway — to outer space and new worlds. The director and his stars talk about the fun (and the pain) of making their new, ambitious epic. PAGE 12

Matthew McConaughey wanders a foreign planet in Christopher Nolan's space movie "Interstellar." / MELINDA SUE GORDON, PARAMOUNT, WARNER BROS.


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1 NEWS

Top 3

*What's trending online at Metro.us*

1 "Star Wars: Episode VII" gets a title

2 'Is Christopher Nolan hurting Jessica Chastain's Oscar chances?'

3 'Women brawl over McDonald's breakfast schedule'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play and get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

# Abducted Germantown woman returns home

**Philadelphia.** Carlesha Freeland-Gaither helped save herself from her abductor.

Carlesha Freeland-Gaither is home.

The 22-year-old Germantown resident was found Wednesday inside a rental car along with her captor in Jessup, Maryland — three days after she was violently abducted steps away from her home, police said Thursday. She returned home Thursday morning.

Her abductor, identified as 37-year-old Delvin Barnes, will face federal charges in Philadelphia. He was being held in Richmond, Virginia, on a separate capital murder and abduction charge. Barnes has already served three prison sentences in Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia Det. James Sloan said in a press conference Thursday that police used several tactics to track down the nurse's assistant, including a tracking device. A GPS attached to the rental car was outfitted with a tracker — a caution the dealer added as a result of Barnes' checkered credit history.

Sloan also said Freeland-Gaither helped herself when she purposely dropped her cellphone during the attack so investigators could identify her.

"She's an intelligent girl," Sloan said.

Quoted

**"This is one of the more memorable cases. It feels good to help out and have a good ending."**

Det. James Sloan, on the abduction of Freeland-Gaither

Visit **Metro.us** for updates on the status of Delvin Barnes.

TOMMY ROWAN
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## A 'Pie in the Sky' at the Shops at Liberty

Michael Rowlands hands out samples of MANNA holiday pies to shoppers at the Shops at Liberty on Thursday. MANNA, a group that provides more than 65,000 home-delivered meals to people living with life-threatening illnesses, is entering the final month of its "Pie in the Sky" fundraiser. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Collegeville

## Paterno 'probably' should not have been fired: Corbett

The late disgraced Penn State coach Joe Paterno "probably" shouldn't have been fired due to the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal, Gov. Tom Corbett told the Inquirer on Thursday.

Corbett, who initiated a grand jury investigation of Sandusky as attorney general before being elected governor, said Paterno "technically complied with the law."

Paterno and then-Penn State president Graham Spanier were fired in November 2011 for failing to act sooner to report Sandusky. Paterno died three months later. METRO

Delaware County

## Longtime Haverford high coach earns DUI

Haverford High School football coach Joe Gallagher was charged Thursday with driving under the influence after he fled the scene of a crash in Prospect Park on Saturday, according to reports.

Gallagher, 58, hit another vehicle around 4 p.m. and fled the scene, although no injuries were reported, according to the Daily News. He was later pulled over by Prospect Park Police, and an open bottle of beer was spotted in a cup holder.

He filed for a leave of absence from the school for "personal reasons," the newspaper reported. He was also charged with reckless driving. METRO

Joe Gallagher
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## SEPTA. Union to vote on contract Friday, to strike if not approved

A week after SEPTA and members of Transport Workers Union Local 234 came to terms on a contract, TWU will vote on Friday whether to officially accept it, the group announced.

The union's 5,000 members will take to 19 polling locations at SEPTA facilities and the union's negotiating committee is promoting members vote in favor of the contract. If it's rejected however, according to a news release, a strike will happen at 12:01 a.m. Monday. METRO

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Philadelphia area

## Bottom Dollar stores to close

More than 40 Bottom Dollar Food stores in the Philadelphia area will be closing at the end of this year, the company announced on Thursday.

ALDI, Inc. will be buying 66 of their stores in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Forty-six of those stores are in the Philadelphia area. Officials have not yet announced what will be done to those stores.

When they close, reports say the brand name will be retired. "This decision was difficult given the impact on our associates, customers and communities in which we operate," said Gene Faller, vice president of retail operations for Bottom Dollar. METRO

By the numbers

**46**

There are 46 Bottom Dollar Food stores in the Philadelphia area.

# National Dog Show therapy dogs visit kids in recovery

**West Philly.** A therapy dog team strutted with ailing kids ahead of the annual National Dog Show.

Ryan Arevalo, 7, left, and Dominic Mazzio, 4, meet therapy dog Vivian at a preview for the National Dog Show at the Ronald McDonald House in West Philadelphia on Thursday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Wes, who turns 2 on Monday, is staying at the Ronald McDonald House in West Philadelphia while he gets radiation treatment.

But on Thursday, he got to play with dogs from the 2014 National Dog Show Therapy Dog Ambassador Team.

"These guys have big paws to fill," said David Frei, a National Dog Show analyst, who introduced the team to kids at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH).

"When you see these dogs, your blood pressure, everything comes down — it's amazing," said Steven Kramer, a therapy dog evaluator and part of the team that brought along two Doges de Bordeaux (French mastiffs), Stella and L'il Abner, to play with a group of youngsters.

"Parents with kids going through treatment, they're stressed all day. We come at night, and the parents just melt. It's amazing to watch," Kramer said.

Domenic, 4, from New Jersey, who has been at the House for five weeks, said his favorite dog was the black Belgian Sheepdog, Waylon — because he looked like a "wolf."

Ryan, 7, has been at the house for three weeks and said his favorite was a Staffordshire Terrier, Vivian, who formerly worked as a new "Leash on Life" dog in the Philadelphia Prisons System.

"The therapy dogs program — it's a piece of home," said RMH executive director Susan Campbell. "When they come in, you always hear parents saying, 'That's the first time she's smiled this week.'"

SAM NEWHOUSE
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sam.newhouse@metro.us

Great dogs

**The National Dog Show, hosted by the local Kennel Club, is Nov. 15-16 at the Greater Philadelphia EXPO Center in Oaks, Pennsylvania.**

- This year, two new breeds, who both visited RMH Thursday, have been recognized by the American Kennel Club for participation: the Coton de Tulear and the Wirehaired Vizsla.

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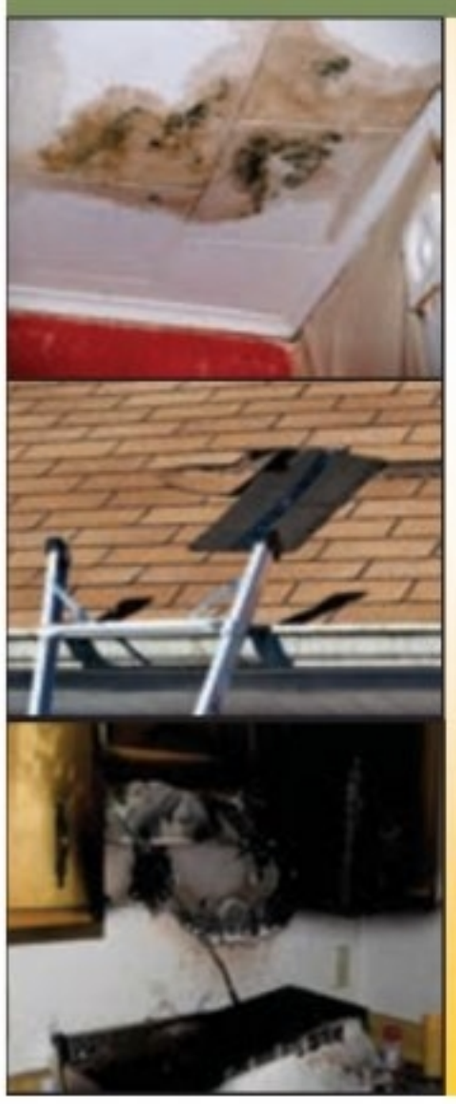
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## Step right up and take a selfie

Jeremy Taylor takes a selfie with Alphonso Buie and Jace Hankerson-Mayo, 2, outside of the Universoul Circus big-top, set up next the Mann Center in West Philadelphia. The circus has multiple shows each day this weekend, running through Nov. 9. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Philadelphia

### New $2.5B pipeline coming to Pa.

Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. announced plans Thursday to build a $2.5 billion pipeline across Pennsylvania that will significantly increase the amount of natural gas liquids flowing into the company's Marcus Hook Industrial Complex in Delaware County.

This new pipeline is considered Phase 2 of the Mariner East 2 project which plans to carry natural gases from the Appalachian shale-gas fields to Marcus Hook.

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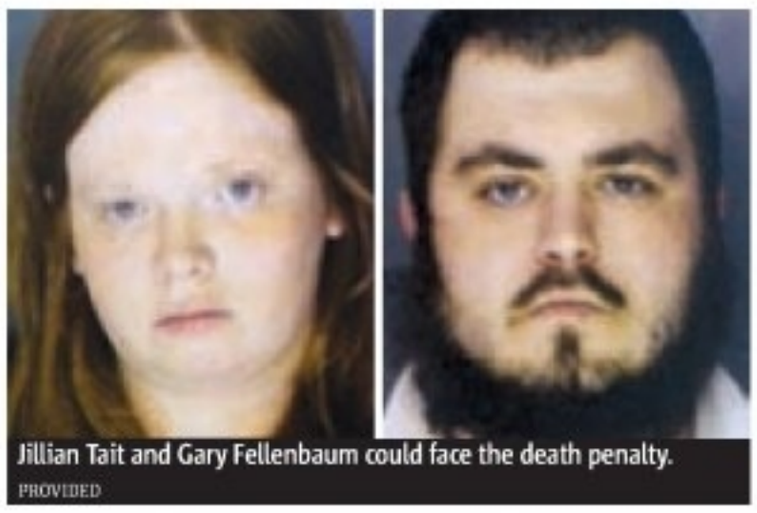
# DA on couple's murder of boy, 3: 'Words fail me'

**Chester County.** A woman and her boyfriend are charged with torturing her son to death.



Jillian Tait and Gary Fellenbaum could face the death penalty.
PROVIDED

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan expressed shock Thursday over the death of a child at the hands of his mother and her boyfriend.

"Words fail me. Say a prayer for the soul of this little boy. Hug your own kids," Hogan wrote on Facebook.

Gary Fellenbaum, 23, and girlfriend Jillian Tait, 21, allegedly tortured Tait's 3-year-old and 6-year-old sons inside a West Caln trailer they shared with Fellenbaum's wife and their baby. The 3-year-old died Tuesday. His brother survived.

The couple began abusing the younger boy after he refused to eat breakfast, reports say, beating him with aluminum siding, a curtain rod and a whip while he was strung up by his feet. They also beat him while he was taped to a chair, and smashed his head through a wall. Hogan vowed to seek the death penalty. **SAM NEWHOUSE**

## It's not too rainy for the seagulls

A man smokes a cigar and feeds seagulls at Penn's Landing on a rainy and overcast day in Philadelphia on Thursday. More rain is expected Friday afternoon with a high around 55. On Saturday and Sunday, it will be mostly sunny with a high of 52. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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# Boehner touts bills to build Keystone, repeal Obamacare

**GOP in control.** Boehner also said he and Senator Mitch McConnell will work in tandem to address the debt.

Speaker of the House John Boehner and Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell. / GETTY IMAGES

Legislation allowing the construction of the Keystone oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, repealing Obamacare and reducing the nation's debt are at the top of Republicans' 2015 agenda, House Speaker John Boehner said on Thursday.

In his first news conference since Tuesday's congressional elections that saw broad Republican victories, Boehner also said that if President Barack Obama unilaterally loosens some immigration regulations, he will "poison the well and there will be no chance of immigration reform moving" in the next two years.

Before the end of this year, Obama is expected to use his executive authority to help possibly millions of undocumented residents who have been living in the United States for an extended period, many raising families here. His actions could allow many of them to seek jobs in the United States without fear of deportation.

Obama held off taking such action earlier this year in the hope that Boehner's Republicans would come together on a rewrite of U.S. immigration laws. In June 2013, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill. REUTERS


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# Nurse free of Ebola defends her work, travels

**Hospital.** Vinson said she had never worn protective gear before treating Thomas Eric Duncan.

One of the Texas nurses who helped treat a Liberian man with Ebola last month defended her decision to fly after that, saying she had not been barred from traveling and felt normal during her trip.

In televised interviews on Thursday, Amber Vinson, 29, also said she had received little training in handling patients with the virus that has ravaged West Africa, and had no experience with the protective gear needed for such cases before treating the Liberian, Thomas Duncan, who later died.

"We did not get much training," she told NBC's "Today" program, speaking of her work at Texas Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, where she had treated Duncan.

"The first time that I put on the protective equipment, I was heading in to take care of the patient," she said, echoing criticism from other nurses that the hospital was not adequately prepared to handle patients with Ebola. Hospital officials have apologized.

Vinson traveled by commercial airplane to Ohio after treating Duncan and before she fell ill with the virus. She reported a slight fever on her return trip to Texas, causing health officials to scramble to track down those who had been in contact with her. REUTERS

Amber Vinson was not told she couldn't travel. / GETTY IMAGES

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**Health officials**

## Last person being monitored for Ebola in Texas set to be cleared

Texas health officials on Thursday said the last person being monitored by the state for possible Ebola is set to be cleared by the end of Friday, concluding a 21-day monitoring period.

In a statement, the Texas Department of State Health Services said that no additional cases of the virus have been diagnosed in the state.

Nearly 5,000 people have been killed by Ebola, mostly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. REUTERS

# Charity. Facebook launches Ebola donation button

Facebook said users would now have option to donate directly to various Ebola relief charities through a button at the top of their News Feeds.

Facebook users can donate to three charities — International Medical Corps, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Save the Children — starting Thursday, the company said on its Website.

The social media company is also donating 100 terminals to provide Internet and voice-calling access for aid workers to Ebola-hit areas in West Africa such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said in October he and his wife would donate $25 million to the Centers for Disease Control Foundation to fight Ebola.

The Ebola outbreak has resulted in nearly 5,000 deaths in West Africa and nine cases treated in the United States since August. REUTERS

# Crime. US shuts down Silk Road 2.0 site, owner charged

U.S. authorities said Thursday they have shut down the successor Website to Silk Road, an underground online drug marketplace, and charged its alleged operator with conspiracy to commit drug trafficking, computer hacking, money laundering and other crimes.

Blake Benthall, 26, was arrested on Wednesday in San Francisco and was expected to make an initial court appearance in federal court there later on Thursday.

The charges against Benthall carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

A lawyer for Benthall could not immediately be identified.

Silk Road 2.0 was launched late last year, weeks after authorities had shuttered the original Silk Road Website in October and arrested its alleged owner, Ross Ulbricht, who went by the online alias, Dread Pirate Roberts.

"Let's be clear — this Silk Road, in whatever form, is the road to prison," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, whose office is prosecuting both cases, said in a statement.

Benthall, known as "Defcon" online, became the operator of Silk Road 2.0 in December, one month after an unnamed co-conspirator launched the site, according to prosecutors.

Silk Road 2.0 provided an online bazaar where users could buy and sell drugs, computer hacking tools and other illicit items, using the digital currency Bitcoin as payment, authorities said.

As of September, the site was generating at least $8 million a month in sales, they said.

The government's investigation included an undercover agent who was able to infiltrate the administrative staff of the Website and interact directly with Benthall, prosecutors said. REUTERS

Preet Bharara, Manhattan U.S. attorney / GETTY IMAGES

**Monthly sales**

**$8M**

As of September, the site was generating at least $8 million a month in sales, authorities said.

**Strategy**

## Microsoft makes more Office features free on iPads

Microsoft Corp. on Thursday said users of its Office suite of applications on Apple's iPad would be able to create and edit documents for free instead of paying for a subscription, in a bid to capture more mobile users.

The move is the latest, and one of the most dramatic, in Microsoft's new strategy of getting customers to use their services regardless of device or operating system, rather than lose them to a proliferation of free or cheap alternatives.

The new strategy, led by new Chief Executive Satya Nadella, is a recognition that the dominance of Windows and Office on PCs has not translated to the fast-growing mobile arena, where Apple's phones and tablets and devices running Google's Android rule.

Nadella's first major move after taking the helm in February was to make Office available on the iPad, which has attracted 40 million users.

By downloading a free app, users could read Office documents in Word, Excel and PowerPoint but had to buy a subscription, starting at $7 per month, to create or edit them. Starting on Thursday, that will now be free. REUTERS

**Today's winner**

To enter your submission for the Metro Photo Challenge to win a $5,000 cash prize, go to **www.metrophotochallenge.com.**

## 'Central Park Conservatory'

Patricia Ehlers, Bronx, New York; Category: Urban Escape

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# OMG! The 'Dorothy' app takes just three heel clicks to call a cab

Need a cab? Just click your feet three times. / ISTRATEGYLABS

In "The Wizard of Oz," three clicks of Dorothy's ruby slippers whisk her away back to the safety of Kansas. Now you can do (almost) the same with a new gadget that fits on your shoes. The Dorothy device — the brainchild of DJ Saul, managing director at Washington-based iStrategyLabs — uses an accelerometer which, upon three strikes in quick succession, connects to a smartphone app to automatically call a cab. The heel-operated gadget, which is powered by the LightBlue Bean, an Arduino micro-controller with a built-in Bluetooth chip, is housed inside the so-called "Ruby" clip. Metro chatted with Saul about his click and cab it app.

**Dorothy seems futuristic. Why did you create it?**
We spend a lot of time coming up with big ideas, usually for our clients but often for ourselves as well. A few months ago we were thinking about different types of "wearables," which might be fun and magical while also potentially serving a real purpose and having an impact. We discussed doing something "discreet" with shoes, and thus Dorothy was born!

**Why did you pick the heel to be the trigger?**
Well, technology has amazing potential, and it's already working its way into almost every aspect of our lives. Dorothy is just an expression representing what's possible with today's technology. And it'll be very useful in the situations where you can't or you won't be able to answer normally — or even to order a pizza.

**Is Dorothy easy to deal with?**
Yes, it is. But this version is just our initial prototype. We already have plans to get it much smaller.

**What material is it made from and can it irritate the foot?**
The Ruby's housing was 3D-printed and carefully finished to remove any ridges and imperfections. Self-setting rubber was then pressed through the stenciled logo on the front face of the enclosure, adding additional color and tactility. The LightBlue Bean was placed inside the housing and covered with a thin laser-etched acrylic faceplate, and finally, a flexible clip was attached. It's very simple and discreet and it doesn't hurt.

**Question**

## Do you have previsions for launch and the price?

It's not yet for sale, as we wanted to test the market reaction to our early prototype, as well as continue exploring future versions and potential actions to trigger.

WANISE MARTINEZ, METRO WORLD NEWS

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# Snacks to boost your burn

When it comes to working out, your snacks should work as hard as you do. We got registered dietitian Molly Morgan to share some of her favorite products from Nuts.com to help your body build muscle, fight fat and recover the best it can after a workout. **EVA KIS**

Pre-workout

## 1 Cacao Goji Energy Squares

When a dietitian recommends chocolate, who are we to argue? These densely packed bites are made with organic, raw ingredients: dried fruit such as dates, raisins and apricots, as well as sunflower and sesame seeds. Besides being a great source of vitamins, minerals and fiber, the cacao and goji berry add antioxidants, plus the boost of energy needed to get you pumped for your workout.

Pre-workout

## 2 Power Mix

This grown-up version of trail mix is pure energy (with zero added salt). Roasted peanuts and soybeans provide ample amounts of protein and dietary fiber, while raisins, dried strawberries, cherries and cranberries pack in vitamins and antioxidants. Just toss this snack into your gym bag, or bring some along on hikes and bike rides for a steady source of body fuel.

Post-workout

## 3 Sacha Inchi

Also known as Inca peanuts, these make Morgan's list because they provide a complete source of protein with all the essential amino acids. Just a handful (1 ounce) has about 8 grams of protein and 6 grams of fiber. Their mild, nutty taste makes them a great addition to a smoothie; toss a few in for texture.

Post-workout

## 4 Quinoa Puffs

These little squares contain all nine essential amino acids, the proteins that build muscle. Quinoa puffs are an easy way to get the benefit from the nutrients in regular quinoa, an excellent source of iron and fiber. Morgan likes them as part of breakfast, perfect with a drizzle of honey, fresh fruit (go for blueberries, an antioxidant powerhouse) and milk.

Philadelphia Jazz Project is a sponsored program of the Painted Bride Art Center, with funding provided by The Wyncote Foundation.

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CULTURE

Everyone's a critic

## *Dueling Nolan Rankings*

By Matt Prigge and Ned Ehrbar

**Christopher Nolan is generally beloved by film geeks and regular geeks alike, thanks in large part to his Batman films. (Well, maybe not all of them.) But opinions about his ever-growing body of work vary wildly. So we pitted Metro's film critic, Matt Prigge, and Hollywood correspondent, Ned Ehrbar, against each other to rank the films of Christopher Nolan. At least they agree on one of them.**

### Matt's ranking:

1. THE PRESTIGE
2. MEMENTO
3. THE DARK KNIGHT
4. BATMAN BEGINS
5. INSOMNIA
6. INCEPTION
7. FOLLOWING
8. THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

### Ned's ranking:

1. INCEPTION
2. THE DARK KNIGHT
3. MEMENTO
4. BATMAN BEGINS
5. THE PRESTIGE
6. FOLLOWING
7. INSOMNIA
8. THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

# Heading out to space with Christopher Nolan

**Interview.** The director wanted his sci-fi movie to be a family film (sort of).

Sure, it's an epic science-fiction drama partially filmed using IMAX cameras, with big, sweeping vistas of outer space and thrilling set pieces, but for director and co-writer Christopher Nolan, "Interstellar" is really a family movie. "When I first looked at [co-writer and brother] Jonah's draft on 'Interstellar,' it was very clear that at the heart of the story was this great family relationship," Nolan says. "We found the more we explored the cosmic scale of things and the further out into the universe you went, the more the focus came down to who we are as people and what are the connections between us."

The family in question at the heart of "Interstellar" is led by Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), a pilot and engineer forced to abandon his kids and father on a mission to find a planet to replace the dying Earth. Maintaining that core theme of family sometimes meant engaging in a bit of subterfuge with his collaborators, including composer Hans Zimmer.

"One of the things I did with Hans is I didn't want him to know what the genre was when he started working," Nolan says. "Before I actually started working on the script, I wrote out a page of what I considered to be the heart of the story — the relationships, the idea of a father having to leave his children — and I gave it to Hans and said, 'Work on that for a day, give me what you've got at the end of the day and that will be the seed to grow the score from. And indeed, the finished score came from that particular creative act."

For a director who's tackled amnesia, dreams and Gotham City, heading to space was a singular thrill. "Really, space exploration has always represented the most hopeful and optimistic endeavor that mankind has ever really engaged with," Nolan says. The recent retiring of the Space Shuttle Endeavor sticks out in his mind, as he and wife — and producing partner — Emma Thomas watched it arrive in LA. "We were up at Griffith Park with hundreds of people waving flags and watching this thing fly down," he remembers. "It was a very moving moment and very melancholy as well, because what you felt was the sense of that great endeavor, that hope and optimism, is something that I feel we're in need of again. I feel very strongly that we're at a point now where we need to start looking up again and exploring our place in the universe more."

Christopher Nolan explains something to star Matthew McConaughey on the set of "Interstellar." / ALL PICTURES FROM MELINDA SUE GORDON, PARAMOUNT, WARNER BROTHERS

Visit **Metro.us** for our exclusive chat with "Interstellar" star and Nolan regular Sir Michael Caine.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.lu

## Jessica Chastain was reluctant to do a movie about space

At first, Jessica Chastain didn't naturally share director Christopher Nolan's wonder for space exploration, which probably had a lot to do with the "Interstellar" star's first memories of the space program. "I remember when I was a kid, my first confrontation with space travel was when the Challenger exploded," she says of the disaster in January 1986, when Chastain was just 8 years old. "I remember how traumatic it was," she says of watching it in a classroom of other children.

That early exposure to the darker consequences of exploration was quite a bit to get over, to put it mildly. "I had never, ever imagined that it was something that I wanted to do," she admits. "As human beings, I think we need to conquer our fears and reach beyond our grasp. I think it's very important that you don't become complacent and stagnant."

Jessica Chastain plays Matthew McConaughey's grown-up daughter.

And while Chastain doesn't see herself signing up for any space walks at the International Space Station anytime soon, she has managed to reignite her own pioneer spirit. "The wonderful thing about being an actress is that I get to act — not in this film — those explorations beyond what I myself am capable of," Chastain says. NED EHRBAR

## Anne Hathaway's favorite costume

Who doesn't love a good 40-pound spacesuit? When Anne Hathaway suited up for her role as an astronaut in "Interstellar," she figured the only way to get through the hardships of wearing the gear was to fall in love with it. "The first time I put it on I made up my mind that it was my favorite costume that I've ever worn," Hathaway says. "Thanks to [Christopher Nolan], I've gotten to wear some pretty spectacular ones. But this one, it was the closest I've ever felt to feeling like a kid at Halloween, if you could stretch out Halloween for several months. I love that feeling. Forty pounds is a lot for me, so it helped that I had to make up my mind that I loved it because that was the only way forward." NED EHRBAR

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# Deep space. 'Interstellar' finds Nolan coming close to marrying the head and the heart

He's conquered Batman, dreams, magic and remakes of Swedish thrillers. (Where were the fanboys circa "Insomnia"?) Now Christopher Nolan aims to take outer space, with Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway heading through a wormhole to find a planet to replace the dying, dust-caked Earth.

Anne Hathaway battles one of those space oceans in Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar."
MELINDA SUE GORDON, PARAMOUNT, WARNER BROTHERS

**The lowdown** Nolan is the elementary school bookworm who also wants to play kickball. He's a brainiac who also wants you to know he has a heart. "Interstellar" is both the most emotional film he's made yet and the closest to a balance between ideas and feelings. It's still a tough film. This isn't some populist sci-fi where the trip from Earth to the deep reaches of space is a warp speed jaunt away. It will take years to get to the Saturn-orbiting wormhole, then who knows how long to bounce from planet to planet. What's worse, McConaughey's All-American, studly Cooper has left behind two young kids, one of whom, Murph, grows up to be a very angry Jessica Chastain. His eye is always on the clock, knowing a single hold-up can result in years elapsing.

That this is a long film that's constantly worried about time passing is a good joke, but — like most Nolans — it doesn't have much of a sense of humor. But McConaughey helps. Cooper is tense and anguished, and — in the most nakedly devastating scene of Nolan's entire career — a tear-soaked wreck. Yet Nolan lets him bust out an "alright, alright, alright"-style hurray, and the actor is generally present and human in a film that's often just scientists rattling off plot and scientific gobbledygook.

Still, the harder "Interstellar" tries to marry brain to feelings, the easier it is to sense that feelings just aren't Nolan's bag. There's a risible speech about love being provable whose only saving grace is that it seems insincere. But it fares exceedingly well with the Cooper-Murph business, notably because it doesn't hold back on the dark side. Murph is furious at her father for ditching her, and as time and tech issues result in long periods of radio silence, anger turns to paranoia. It's the only time when science and feelings line up — where Nolan finds an organic way to use one of his gimmicks to get at something that hurts on a gut level.

There's also a strong sense of isolation and insignificance; our heroes, stuck in a ratty tin can, are often dwarfed in suitably awe-inspiring images. This is a deeply, sometimes thrillingly imperfect beast — one that reaches beyond its grasp. It's a wildly ambitious epic that, rather than conquering the space blockbuster, has to settle for a Plan B. **MATT PRIGGE**

**Review**

**'Interstellar'**

**Director:** Christopher Nolan

**Stars:** Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway

**Rating:** PG-13

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# Marvel 'toon. A perfectly fun entry gets overshadowed by its adorbs balloon robot

In this shotgun marriage between Marvel and Disney's animation wing, a Doogie Howser-esque prodigy named Hiro (voice of Ryan Potter) joins forces with a team of techies-turned-superheroes, including an inflatable, synthetic, pot-bellied, humongously adorable bot named Baymax (Scott Adsit), who was designed by Hiro's late brother as a mere health care worker.

The main draw of the superhero pic "Big Hero 6" is Baymax, an inflatable health care worker. / DISNEY

**The lowdown** "Big Hero Six" has some of the best comedic timing and direction in ages, which is odd as it's a cartoon as well as a Marvel superhero movie. That's mostly courtesy of Baymax, who's a bit slow. Indeed, before he's tricked out with new, butt-kicking programming and jet-packed armor, Baymax moves so glacially that the movie often stops dead for him. Working through phrases in broken old-timey computer speak, Adsit never raises his voice, committed to single-handedly bringing a busy movie down to his glacial speed.

Naturally Baymax is the best part of "Big Hero Six," but by no means it's only part. In its way, this is a more distinctive Marvel film than "Guardians of the Galaxy." Divorced from the brand's "Cinematic Universe," it's an even mash-up of the comics factory and their owners, Disney, and for the most part borrows the best from both worlds. It's still as slight as its brethren, and it still all comes down to Baymax, who is like one of the Minions of "Despicable Me," except that he's also E.T. He's a comic relief who quietly worms his way into the heart. **MATT PRIGGE**

**Review**

**'Big Hero 6'**

**Directors:** Don Hall, Chris Williams

**Voices of:** Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit

**Rating:** PG

● ● ● ● ○

**Review**

## 'Laggies'

● ● ● ○ ○

Keira Knightley plays Megan, a 28-year-old who's the last of her friends to get married. But when her boyfriend (Mark Webber) actually proposes, she freaks out and pretends she's at a far-off conference when she's actually hanging out with a bunch of teenagers, led by Chloe Grace Moretz.

**The lowdown:** It might not look it, but "Laggies" is the latest from Lynn Shelton, heretofore the maker of rough, handheld, largely improvised indies such as "Humpday" and "Your Sister's Sister." "Laggies," meanwhile, is all filmed on a tripod, with name actors slumming in a script that would have, in the distant past, been a studio picture.

Stylistically, this is an anonymous, high-toned indie, but her personality shines through in the messiness of the characters and the performers playing them. "Laggies" stays on a pretty familiar trajectory. But Shelton gives the actors just enough wiggle room to goof around. Knightley in particular has arguably never been more amiable, and Dever, as the wilder of the teens, keeps things peppy even during the obligatory third act shift to a more melodramatic tone. **MATT PRIGGE**

Teen Chloe Grace Moretz spends time with nonteen Keira Knightley in Lynn Shelton's "Laggies." / A24


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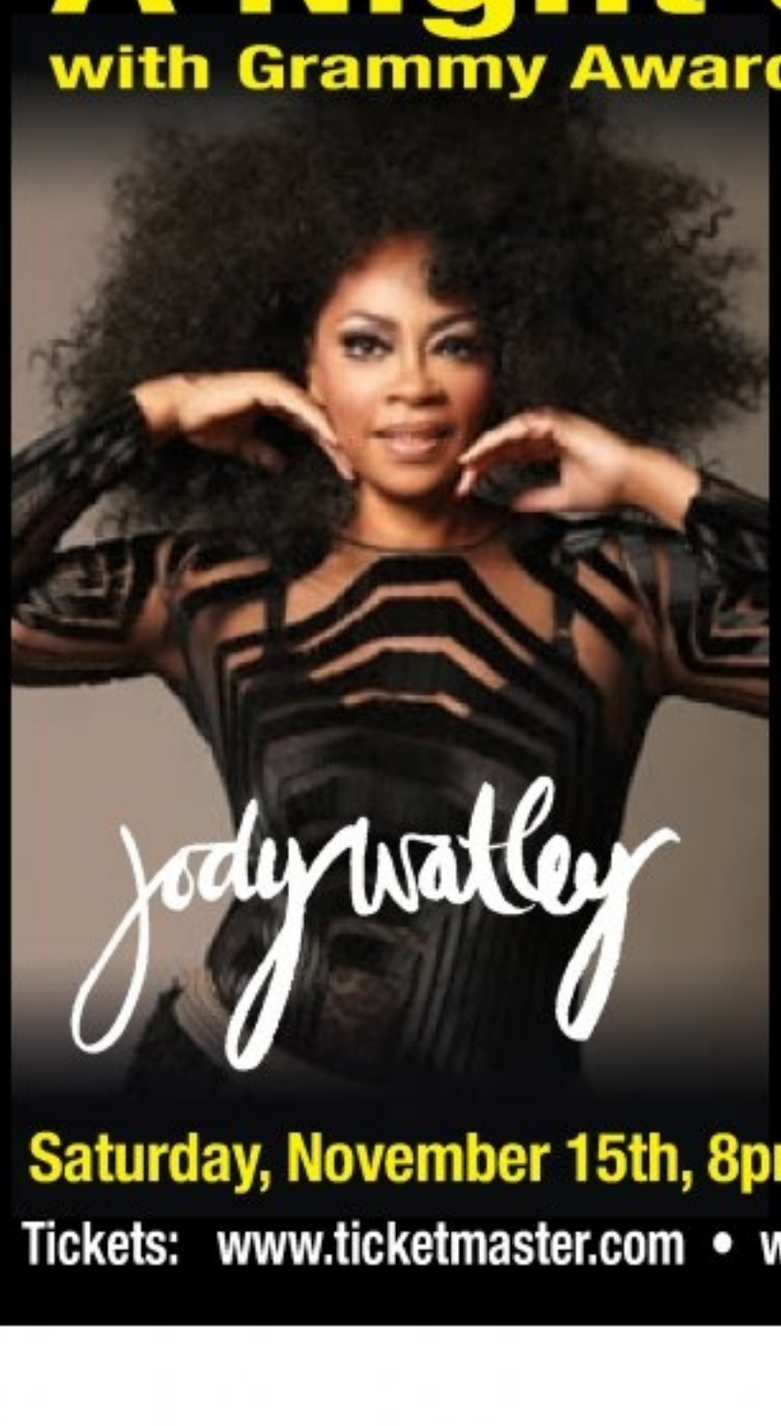


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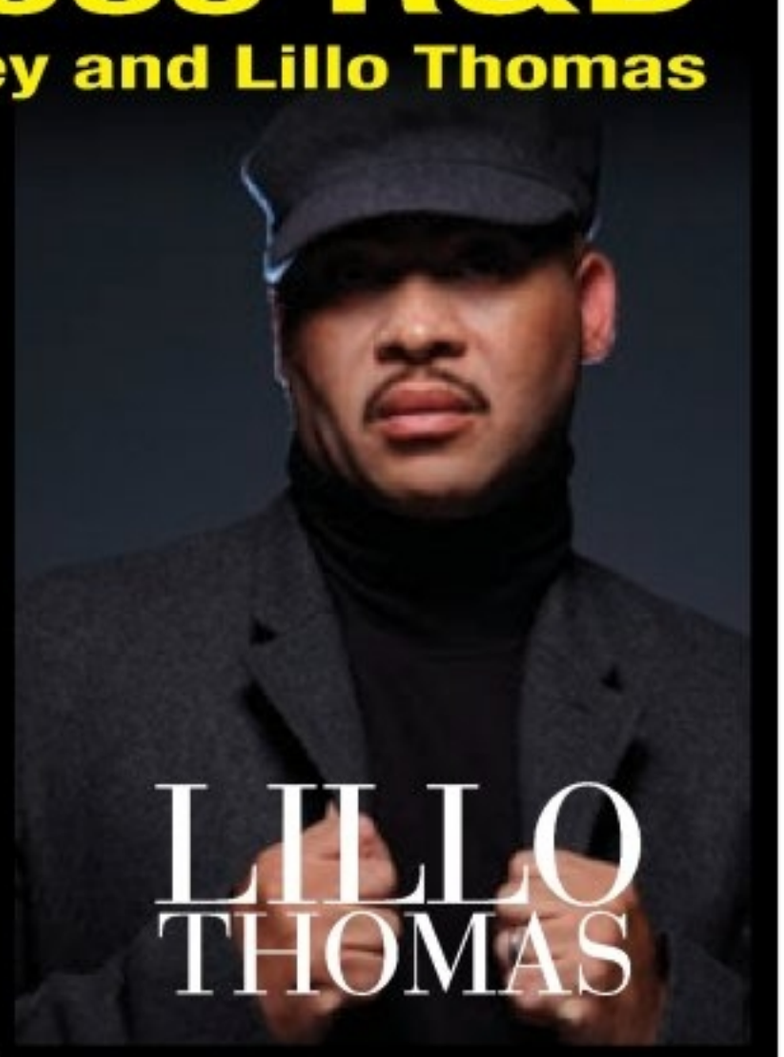


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Reviews

## 'Camp X-Ray'

● ● ● ○ ○

Kristen Stewart plays a fresh fish Gitmo guard who gradually befriends a longtime detainee (Peyman Moaadi), who is almost certainly not a terrorist.

**The lowdown** "Camp X-Ray" has a terrible title and a far too simplistic plot. But simplicity isn't in itself evil. Care went into its filmmaking, its performances and even its characterizations. Mostly a series of conversations set in a single, brightly lit, white hallway, it likes to hang tight on Stewart and Moaadi's faces. They're never in the same shot, and in fact, the narrow image shape stresses their isolation further, stranding them in frames with no one nearby. Stewart's very good, and that shouldn't be surprising, while Moaadi ("A Separation") isn't afraid to portray his character — driven nearly mad by lengthy isolation — as on edge and sometimes flat-out annoying.

This happy Swedish family on an Alps skiing trip in "Force Majeure" won't stay happy past the first reel. / MAGNOLIA PICTURES

## 'Force Majeure'

● ● ● ● ○

While on an Alps skiing holiday with the fam, a father (Johannes Kuhnke) flees from what looks like an avalanche, leaving his wife and children to perish — only for it to be a false alarm, meaning they now know dad's a spineless cad.

**The lowdown** Almost exactly like the Gael Garcia Bernal-starring "The Loneliest Planet," "Force Majeure" spins on a character, in a moment of mindless instinct, acting cowardly, revealing his true, pathetic self. Unlike "The Loneliest Planet," the characters actually talk about it. But this isn't a message film. It digs into an ethics debate without showing any need to solve it. The filmmaking is of the minimalist long-take school, and the ever-still camera stares at Kuhnke's deflating patriarch and shocked, increasingly disillusioned mom (Lisa Loven Kongsl) as they attempt to communicate. Despite the heaviness, there's something detached and funny about the film, even (or especially) during the inciting incident and during its curious ending.

# Follow your Blackheart

**Live on stage.** SuicideGirls founder discusses the group's new burlesque show.

SuicideGirls, the Internet's 13-year-strong bastion of nerdy sexy cool, is hitting the road again with this fall's Blackheart Burlesque, a tantalizing revue of pop culture channeled through the site's tattooed, punk esthetic. And if that's not reason enough to go, supporting the girls puts you on the right side of the current online culture war. We spoke with the group's founder, Missy Suicide, about crafting the show, keeping it fresh and dealing with trolls.

**You relaunched your live show last year. What's new about this year's tour?**
There are a lot of new numbers. Last year's tour had a lot of pop culture references, but there were some nonthemed numbers peppered throughout. This year we've got so many new numbers and it's all themed out. There's an "Adventure Time" number this year, for instance, that I'm super-stoked about, and it's set to a Black Keys song. It's highly choreographed and super-sexy.

**How exactly do you incorporate "Adventure Time" into a burlesque routine?**
The girls are themed out, their costumes are "Adventure Time" and they're in character as different "Adventure Time" characters. It's so fun to see these characters that you know and love come to life dancing to these modern songs and doing it in a sexy, fun way.

**You're going so many different places with this tour. Do you have a sense of how the crowds vary in each city?**
I feel like there are superfans in every city. That's the thing that doing a website has taught me over the past 13 years: that there are small pockets of

### About those trolls

**You must have an interesting perspective on the recent blow-ups about feminism and women's issues online.**
Social media has ... been this kind of Wild West thing where people feel like they can say whatever comes to their minds. Meanwhile, we have so many choices available to us these days, and so now women are gravitating toward things that had been predominantly male-focused, like comic books and video games. So many of the girls on the site are into geekier pursuits. And it's that, which is great, coupled with the troll culture, which has clashed in this way that's really alarming and upsetting. But I think eventually, no society really tolerates any sort of Tourette-sian outburst, so ... at some point ... people will behave accordingly.

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Exactly. You can find your penguin or whatever. [Laughs]

**Is that a "Fight Club" reference?**
Maybe. I tend to make a lot of Chuck Palahniuk references.

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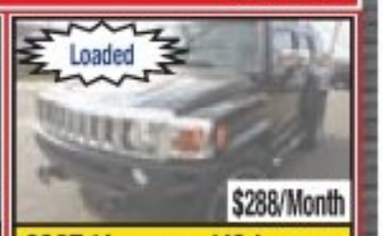


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# Eat like a hipster with the 'Portlandia' cookbook

"Portlandia" (the TV show, not the cookbook) returns in January 2015. / JEFF VESPA

**Brunch.** Dine in style with recipes inspired by the show's wacky characters.

You might be suspicious of a cookbook spawned from the sketch comedy series "Portlandia," which lampoons the more eccentric elements of life in Portland, Oregon, but series stars Carrie Brownstein and Fred Armisen assure us the Portland food scene is nothing to joke about. "It really has its own signature on cuisine, I can't believe it. It also doesn't toot its own horn about [its] own food," Armisen says. And according to Brownstein, that culture extends to the book itself. "We're not trying to take it too seriously, but if you want to use it as a legitimate cookbook, it completely functions as that," Brownstein says. "There are genuine recipes in there that are legitimately tasty. I think for new cooks or cooks who are just starting out, it's a good way, because a lot of

Portland staple

## The only thing seemingly missing from the cookbook

Totchos — or nachos made with tater-tots — a staple at bars around the city. "Oh yeah, totchos! I have had totchos at the Florida Room. It's the best late-night bar food," Brownstein says of her city. Maybe for the next book.

it is comfort food."

For a sample of what the book does have to offer, Brownstein and Armisen suggest the Bird in a Grilled Cheese Nest, so we've provided the recipe. "I love eggs on anything, and Portland is very egg-y now," Armisen says. Brownstein likes the dish for its simplicity. "This is something that just requires bread and cheese and egg. It's all the ingredients I like, and it's like a fancy grilled cheese," she says, adding, "I'm sorry, yes, it's carb-heavy. You can follow that up with a big steak!"

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

# Recipe. Bird in a Grilled Cheese Nest

**Ingredients**

- 4 slices best-quality packaged white sandwich bread
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise (not reduced-fat)
- 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 3 ounces (about 1 cup) coarsely shredded cheese, such as fontina, unaged Asiago, or unaged Gouda
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- Unsalted butter, for the pan
- 2 large eggs
- truffle salt (optional)

***Total: 25 minutes***
***Makes 2 sandwiches***

1 Preheat the broiler, setting the rack six inches from the heat.

2 Arrange the bread on a work surface and spread one side only with the mayonnaise, evenly and to the edges. Sprinkle the Parmesan over the mayonnaise and press lightly to make it adhere. Flip the bread and add the coarsely shredded cheese and the scallions to two of the slices. Close the sandwiches, with the Parmesan-encrusted sides out.

3 Heat an ovenproof griddle or skillet over medium heat and lightly grease with butter. Add the sandwiches and cook over moderate heat until lightly browned on the bottom, 1 to 1½ minutes.

4 Transfer the sandwiches to a cutting board. Using a biscuit cutter or the rim of a glass, cut out a 2-inch hole in the center of each sandwich. Return the sandwiches and cutouts to the griddle, browned side up, and melt a sliver of butter in the holes. Crack an egg into each hole and cook over medium heat for about 30 seconds. Transfer the griddle to the broiler and cook until the top is browned and the egg whites are just set but the yolk is still runny, about 2 minutes. The tops and bottoms should be perfectly golden, but be careful not to overtoast the bread.

5 Sprinkle the eggs with truffle salt, if using, and serve immediately, with the cutouts of bread on the side.

Bird in a Grilled Cheese Nest
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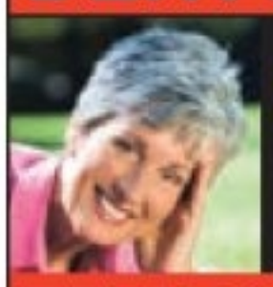
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Charles J. Orlando is a relationship expert and author of the best-selling book series "The Problem with Women ... Is Men." Find out more about him on his website, or visit him on Facebook for real-world love advice.

# An open letter to a pick-up artist

Julien Blanc had an event canceled in Australia after protests opposing him and his methods. / ZODNAR RF

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

Dear Julien Blanc:

I've been reading about your exploits in Australia. Looks like your "pick-up artistry" got a little messy, eh? Your hotel canceled your "event," but I can't say I'm surprised. You aren't teaching men how to meet women. You are teaching men how to coerce women into sleeping with them. In essence, you are cloning you — a pathetic, empty shell of a man.

You are a poster child for Real Social Dynamics (RSD), the pick-up artist consortium that claims to "teach men how to attract women." But you and RSD don't teach men tips for confidence, attraction or finding love, and respect is a word that is clearly not in your vocabulary. You teach men how to lie. You teach men how to manipulate. In your latest "workshops," it now seems you are also teaching sexual assault.

A man "picking up a woman" by pulling her head to his crotch isn't just abusive; it's also a felony. It's sexual assault in the purest sense of the word. What many people don't realize is that in addition to preying on women, you're also preying on the men you claim to teach.

I connected with three of your "buddies" in RSD (on the condition that I keep them anonymous). They started the conversation by singing your praises, but I wasn't as concerned with their opinion of you today. These are men who come to you looking for answers. Many of them are men who have been shunned by women for the whole of their adult lives. Some were bullied in middle school, and others are unsure of how to approach someone of the opposite sex without being laughed at. And what do you do? You prey on their insecurities and train them in "techniques" that provide a false sense of confidence.

You are forced to find new women constantly because:

They figure out your true intentions quickly and move on;

You are afraid of getting too close to any woman due to your fear that she'll find out that you are emotionally vacant;

And you're insecure in yourself as a man and you are counting on external validation to bolster your fragile self-esteem.

I might feel bad for you, if it weren't for the emotional destruction and confusion you leave in your pathetic wake.

Let me know when you hit bottom, or when you have run out of soul to sell.

Of course this is just my opinion. I could be wrong, but I doubt it.

**Quoted**

**"A man 'picking up a woman' by pulling her head to his crotch isn't just abusive; it's also a felony. It's sexual assault in the purest sense of the word."**

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

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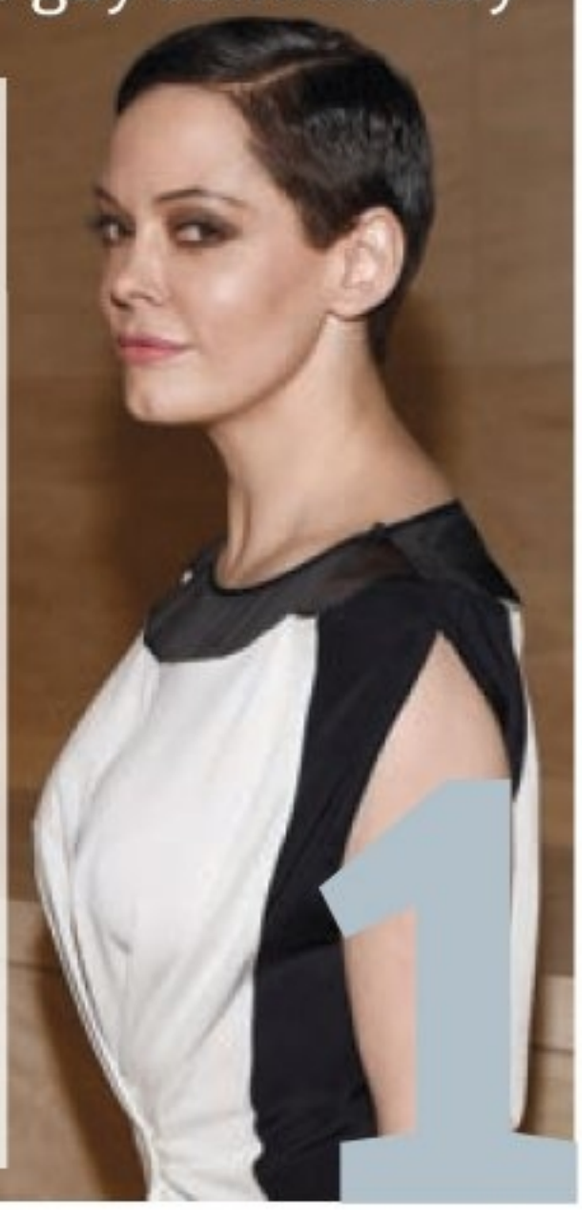
## 1 Rose McGowan sorry/not sorry for upsetting the gay community



Rose McGowan would like the gay community to know that she's very, very sorry for saying that gay men are "as misogynistic as straight men, if not more so" during a podcast chat with Bret Easton Ellis. "You want to talk about the fact that I have heard nobody in the gay community, no gay males, standing up for women on any level? I think it's what happens to you as a group when you are starting to get most of what you fought for," she said during the podcast. "I have not seen a single peep from these people, who supposedly represent lesbians as well. When the equal pay act was shut down by Republicans in the Senate, not a single man mentioned that. I see now people who have basically fought for the right to stand on top of a float wearing an orange Speedo and take [MDMA]. Gay misogyny is a huge problem."

So, about that apology? In an op-ed for the Advocate, McGowan says she "made a dumb generalization" and could have "articulated my frustration in a better fashion" but stands by her core point that if she doesn't specifically see something with her own eyes, it hasn't happened.

## 2 Joss Whedon irked by Idris Elba's loose lips

Speaking of apologies, Idris Elba owes one to Joss Whedon. Vulture caught up with the "Avengers" director and asked him about the details Elba let slip about himself and Tom Hiddleston popping up in next year's "Avengers: Age of Ultron." Not surprisingly, Whedon wasn't pleased. "Um, should he receive an email from me, there might be an attitude of scold," Whedon says. "When you have a cast of 19,000 people, inevitably, once every month, you pick up [a story] and you're like, 'Awww.'" Indeed.

Whedon, exhibiting "an attitude of scold" toward Elba, inset.

## 3 A movie about Elvis meeting Nixon?

"Elvis & Nixon," the upcoming film inspired by one of the kookiest photos of the 20th century, has found its leads. Kevin Spacey will star as Richard Nixon, while "Boardwalk Empire" and "Man of Steel" star Michael Shannon will grow some pretty impressive sideburns to play Elvis Presley. I'm not sure how they're going to stretch an awkward photo opportunity into a two-hour movie, but we'll know soon enough.

Spacey and Shannon replicate a 1970s Kodak moment.

## 4 J.Lo totally crushing on J.Lo

"You're awesome." "No, YOU'RE awesome." / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Jennifer Lopez has her heart set on someone new: herself. No, for serious. "I would describe the woman I am today as a work in progress," Lopez tells E! News. "And this was the beginning of what I think is going to be a lifelong journey of being content and happy with myself. I have to know how great I am, you know — all of us need to know how great we are. That we're worth it. … When you can really appreciate the person you are — not what you've accomplished, not the money that you have, none of that, just the girl you are — that person is just a good, funny, generous loving person. You always have to be the most important [person in your life]. That's what love is." She might want to cool it a little if she doesn't want to scare herself off, though.

## 5 AC/DC drummer caught in murder-for-hire plot

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd has been arrested in New Zealand on charges he sought to hire someone to murder two men, according to BBC News. Rudd was also charged with possession of methamphetamines and cannabis, but the murder-for-hire charge alone could get him 10 years in prison. His band, based in Australia, is due to release a new album later this year, although Rudd didn't appear in a recent publicity photo or video shoot for the rock group.

## THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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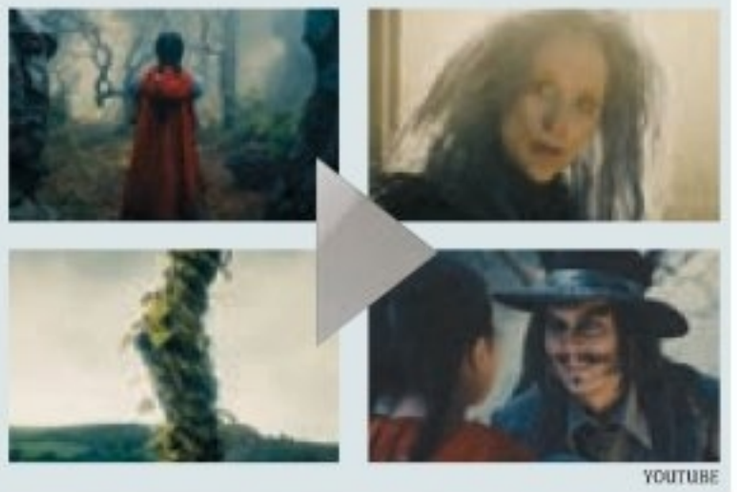
**Daily video**

### New 'Into the Woods' trailer admits it's a musical

The full trailer for Disney's film adaptation of "Into the Woods" is here, and it finally makes clear what fans of Stephen Sondheim's Broadway hit already knew: It's a musical. The first teaser for the Christmas release seemed to shy away from that fact, but this one wears its musical theater bona fides on its sparkly sleeve. We're still not sold on Johnny Depp's Big Bad Wolf, though.



YOUTUBE

Letters

## A smaller sin

**Re: 'Oppression against cyclists is great travesty of our age' (Metro, Nov. 4)** In the debate over "lawless pedestrians" (stifling a laugh at that) vs. "lawless cyclists," how about a comparison of the rules broken by both groups?

Lawless cyclists: 1. Blow through red traffic lights and ignore other traffic rules as if the rules somehow do not apply to them (and then cry foul if they get hit by a car at an intersection and survive); 2. Cycle in the dark without lights; 3. Cycle on the sidewalks, the only space that pedestrians are supposed to have to themselves; 4. Cycle on one-way streets in the wrong direction.

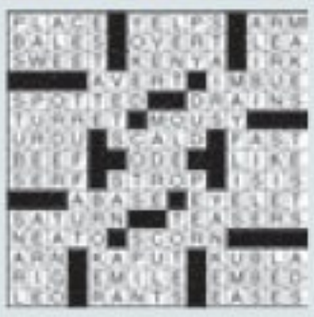
Lawless pedestrians: 1. Sometimes jaywalk.

PAUL PHELAN, VIA EMAIL

## GOP should be wary

All Republicans should be happy but wary with the victory on Tuesday night. In battleground states such as Colorado, Iowa, North Carolina, New Hampshire, etc. the Republicans won by a single-digit percentage or lost. That is worrisome, as we know the country has two very different electorates: One shows up during midterms for the Republicans and the other younger, less white, less conservative and bigger, turns out for the Democrats in presidential years. This means a lot of the Republican base voted against the Republican party. CELESTINE FONDUNGALLAH, VIA EMAIL

Thursday's answer



# WEAK EXCUSE FOR DEMOCRATIC LOSS

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

Of all the excuses I've heard since Tuesday for the butt kicking dished to the Democrats, the weakest one came from the White House. Even before the polls opened, Obama surrogates were filling the airwaves and Internet saying in so many words, "We didn't communicate well enough. We didn't explain to the voters how great our programs are, and how much they should trust us, and what a swell guy sits in the Oval Office. That's why our side lost."

This is an odd claim. After all, wasn't Barack Obama the man who set the country afire in the 2008 race, with soaring speeches about "hope" and "change?" Isn't he the fellow who caused thousands to gather in swooning rallies to hear his grand vision of a better America?

And yet now his team is suggesting he was "out communicated" by a guy like Mitch McConnell who greeted his party's victory with this heart-stopping war cry about GOP plans: "We're going to function."

Many D.C. insiders who don't have Kool-Aid stains on their ties hint that the real problem is this White House's focus on a communications gap, when the trouble is a lack of robust engagement with Congress. Yes, bravely defending a president's programs in the Capitol halls is dirty, messy and means daily communion with stubborn opponents, but this is what successful presidents do. That's what produces minimum wage laws, gun legislation and civil rights protections, and no press release can substitute for such efforts.

The most common complaint I've heard from D.C. players since the first Obama inauguration is that this administration is too insular, too sure it has all the answers, too certain it doesn't need to explain itself to foes or even friends. And they say that has adversely affected the quality of the legislation this president wins.

Yet the inner circle, even in the face of these daunting Midterm losses, keeps acting like a losing football team saying, "You know, we would have won if only we'd bragged about our touchdowns a little more."

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

**♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.** A last-minute deviation from your plans will have an amazing effect on your future. Go with the flow.

**♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21.** You should stop agonizing over what you've done in the past and look at the future with optimism. Unwise decisions will be the result of poor judgment.

**♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20.** Preoccupation with personal problems will interfere with your professional productivity. Make your career a priority to avoid further repercussions. Let success be your revenge.

**♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18.** Don't dwell on negative events. Consider your objectives and put your best foot forward. Appreciate what you have and you'll find a way.

**♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.** Cultural influences will spur your creativity and spark new ideas. Music and art can be enjoyed with little or no cash via the Internet or at galleries and museums.

**♈ Aries | March 21-April 20.** A falling out with someone will leave you feeling uneasy. If you overreact, you will have to make amends. Be honest and admit your mistake.

**♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21.** A brief getaway will renew your faith in life. It's easy to lose sight of your goals if you've been running in circles and getting nowhere fast. An escape will put things in perspective.

**♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20.** Be generous with your time, not your money. Don't let negativity take a toll on your well-being. Volunteer for a worthy cause to make a difference.

**♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22.** If an emotional partnership is in decline, you need to make some hard choices. Don't stay in a situation that is bringing you down. Shake up your routine.

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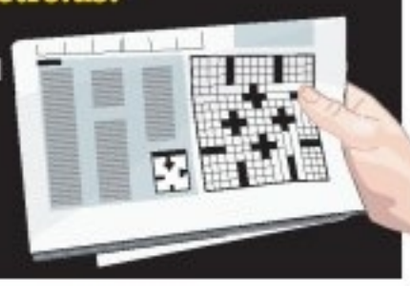

**♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.** Act reserved when dealing with peers. Overfamiliarity with colleagues or superiors will lead to a loss of respect and damage to your status and reputation.

**♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Curb your anger around the young and old people in your life. You'll get a better response using encouragement. Focus inward and make personal changes.

**♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.** Business or legal negotiations will require your full attention. Don't rush while working out contracts or agreements. Time will be needed to do proper research.

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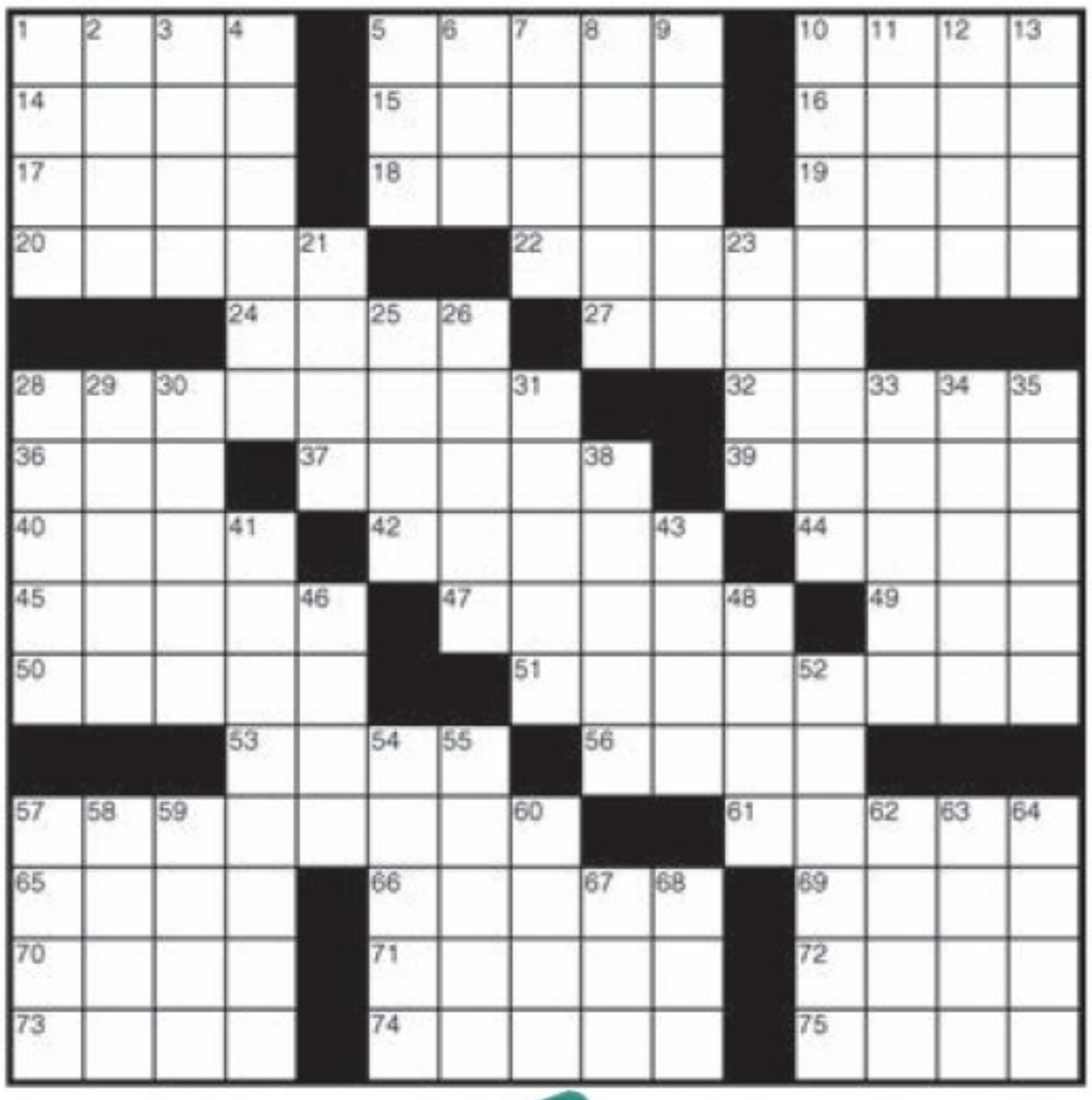
## Crossword



### Across

1 Bland
5 Meringue non-ingredients
10 Toga party site
14 Jean Auel heroine
15 Jung's inner self
16 Mr. Lalique
17 Qom's country
18 John Lennon hit
19 "Como — usted?"
20 Ivan — of tennis
22 Is older than
24 Per capita
27 Journey
28 Eliminate (2 wds.)
32 Stuck around
36 Prospect for gold
37 Seattle's Sound
39 Woolen fabric
40 Kinds
42 Prolific diarist
44 — avis
45 Phone charges
47 More mellow
49 Debussy subject
50 Nasty laugh
51 Nearly wipe out
53 Term paper abbr. (2 wds.)
56 Portico
57 Ready to mail
61 Jeweled coronet
65 Grades 1-12
66 Mexican buddy
69 So
70 Invent a word
71 Copier supply
72 Helper (abbr.)
73 Crooned
74 Sign up for
75 Theta follower

### Down

1 Not succeed
2 Ancient harp
3 Ladd of films
4 Bike for two
5 Swing off-course
6 Name in Beatles history
7 Hobble
8 Target rival
9 More rational
10 More weird
11 Balance
12 — up (pay)
13 Oolong et al.
21 Reindeer herder
23 Cotillion honorees
25 Sudden ouster
26 More colossal
28 Long shoals
29 Eagle's gripper
30 Foot neighbor
31 Lukewarm
33 Bard's forte
34 White wader
35 "The Wreck of the Mary —"
38 Keys in data
41 Applying pomade
43 Splinter group
46 Tijuana Ms.
48 Laugh-a-minute
52 Rum drink (2 wds.)
54 Rock tumbler stone
55 Troublesome car
57 Abs' neighbors
58 Noted diamond surname
59 Goatee spot
60 By — of hard work
62 Mr. Moto's reply (2 wds.)
63 Iron oxide
64 Thin Man's terrier
67 Aitch preceder
68 Bruin ice great



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SPORTS

**Avant returns**

## *Birds face former leader*

**Former Eagles receiver Jason Avant returns to Lincoln Financial Field for the first time since the Birds released him in March. He went on to sign with the Panthers. "The one thing that Jason always did and that you could always point to as a coach is his work ethic," Chip Kelly said.**

# Kelly: Maclin simply playing 'as expected'

**NFL.** Jeremy Maclin continues to play at an extremely high level as part of Chip Kelly's offense.

Is Jeremy Maclin really this good? Or is it the offense?

Last season, Chip Kelly's first in the NFL, DeSean Jackson had a career year at wide receiver (with Maclin sidelined with a torn ACL).

Now with Jackson out of town, Maclin has picked up right where his former teammate left off.

Which begs the question: How good is the Week 9 NFL Offensive Player of the Week?

"That's the Jeremy Maclin I saw before the injury," Kelly said, "and the big thing for me is that's the Jeremy Maclin I saw here every day rehabbing. I knew he was going to be successful. I saw how he attacked his rehabilitation in terms of getting ready and getting back and ready to play with his knee."

Maclin is far and away the Eagles' top offensive player. / GETTY IMAGES

**Quoted**

**"He just reassured everything when he got here. I think we have the guys to help him be successful and he can help us be successful."**

**Jeremy Maclin, wide receiver,** on Mark Sanchez

Maclin couldn't have planned it any better. Instead of locking himself down for an average salary, long term with the Eagles, he decided to sign a risky one-year deal to prove his worth after missing a season due to injury.

"That's why it was very, very important for us to sign him in this offseason and make sure that he stayed here and was a part of it," Kelly said. "I think it's just a credit to him in terms of his determination."

Maclin, fresh off catching a combined 18 passes for 335 yards and four touchdowns in his last two games, is ranked No. 5 in receiving yards (790) in the NFL. He is also third in touchdowns with eight.

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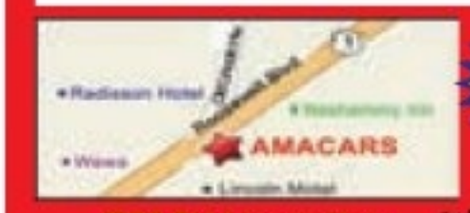


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# NFL elite have easy Week 10 matchups

**NFL.** Expect a few lopsided results from this week's slate of games.

The schedule of games this Sunday doesn't exactly put the contenders to the test. Many of this season's top teams have an easy matchup in Week 10, most notably the Broncos, Cowboys, Ravens and Cardinals. They do play the games for a reason, though, and an upset over a division leader could shake up playoff standings in a heartbeat.

Here's a look at the action worth keeping an eye on Sunday while waiting for the Eagles to kick off Monday night against the Panthers.

**Broncos (–12.5) at Raiders**
Peyton Manning and the Broncos get just what the doctor ordered in Week 10 against the Raiders — the chance to put their embarrassing loss to the Patriots last week behind them with their own offensive explosion.

**Cowboys (–7.5) vs. Jags**
With or without Tony Romo in London on Sunday, the Cowboys shouldn't have much trouble taking care of the lowly Jags.

**Rams at Cardinals (–8)**
Can the Rams pull off the trifecta? They already shocked the Seahawks and 49ers. Get a win against the heavily favored Cardinals at home and the Rams could prove they're for real.

**Giants at Seahawks (–10)**
The Seahawks are back at home where they are still remarkably tough to beat. The beat-up Giants are on fumes and need to play a perfect 60 minutes to win this one.

**Bears at Packers (–8)**
The Bears and Packers are always a classic matchup at Lambeau Field. Throw the betting line out the door, it's a bitter division battle.

James Harrison is back excelling for the Steelers and looking to create havoc for Michael Vick this Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

**Chiefs at Bills (pick)**
It's two AFC teams with a chance to grab a wild card berth, if they can play well down the stretch.

**Falcons at Bucs (pick)**
Another evenly matched contest, the Bucs can still get in the mix in the NFC South with a win over Atlanta.

**Titans at Ravens (–10.5)**
Perhaps the surprise of the AFC this year, Baltimore looks to be cruising to an NFC north title (if they can stay ahead of the surging Steelers).

**Dolphins at Lions (–2.5)**
The Dolphins look like contenders after last week's impressive and surprising shutout win. Can they get in the mix for an AFC wild card spot?

**Steelers (–4.5) at Jets**
Will Ben Roethlisberger finally come back to Earth away from the friendly confines of Heinz Field?

**49ers at Saints (–4.5)**
In a matchup between two underachieving teams in the NFC, someone's got to break through on Sunday night. The Saints, at 4-4, somehow lead the NFC South.

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**Owls in action**

## Temple football looks to keep it going against Memphis

The Owls pulled off the impossible last Saturday — their first win over a ranked opponent (East Carolina, No. 19) since 1998. So can the 5-win Owls keep the momentum going and get into contention to earn a bowl berth?

They'll test that against Memphis at home.

"Obviously, coming off that game on Saturday, I thought it was a great day for Temple," head coach Matt Rhule said. "[It was a] great day for our university, for our players, and for our fans. We appreciate everyone for supporting us."

On Friday night, things won't get much easier as the team tied for first in the AAC comes to town for the 7:30 p.m. contest, televised nationally on ESPNU.

Temple's defense has carried it all season. / GETTY IMAGES

"There's a really good team coming to play here on Friday night and they're in first place for a reason," Rhule said of the Tigers. "Our hands are going to be full, we're trying to get some guys healthy, trying to get ourselves prepared to play, and hopefully our kids will have their minds right, get their bodies as healthy as they can get them and go out there and battle an outstanding team."

The key will be Temple's run defense, led by linebacker Tyler Matakevich, stopping the Memphis ground attack. They've accumulated over 200 yards in back-to-back games — both victories.

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**Owls figures**

**0**

Number of times, before last Saturday, that a nationally ranked NCAA football team had played in Philadelphia and not won.

**24**

Temple's total number of takeaways this year, compared with 15 all of last season.

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# BIG-NAME PLAYERS MAKE BIG RETURNS

As we navigate through the last of the bloated bye weeks, we can narrow our focus from depth to difference-makers.

After all, fantasy football is not a cumulative game — it's a week-to-week battle. There are plenty of players out there that haven't suited up in a long time. What to expect from three of the biggest names:

## Flash Gordon

Fantasy's No. 1 wide receiver from last season is finally nearing a return. Josh Gordon has been allowed at the team facility during his suspension, reportedly working "really hard" and is ready to hit the ground running in Week 12. A dynamic difference maker that has proven he can overcome wobbly quarterback play, Gordon will immediately enter the top 10 WR tier when he makes his season debut against the Falcons. This pass game is absolutely desperate for weaponry.

## All Day's plea

Now that Adrian Peterson has pleaded to one misdemeanor count of assault — with not a mention of child abuse or domestic violence — the ball is in the NFL's court. Will they reinstate Peterson considering he has already essentially been suspended for eight games with pay? No one seems to know. Even if there's only a 25 percent chance Peterson plays again this season, he's worth adding and stashing as a top 3 running back. The coaches couldn't keep him off the field if they got the green light.

## Red-nose Rudolph

Kyle Rudolph was not suspended like Gordon or Peterson, he was just hurt. But he's targeting Week 11 for his return from groin surgery and should quickly slide into a major role for tight end friendly coordinator Norv Turner. It's interesting for fantasy owners as the tight end position is a wasteland behind the big three of Rob Gronkowski, Jimmy Graham and Julius Thomas.

Josh Gordon had 87 catches for 1,646 yards and nine touchdowns in 2013. / GETTY IMAGES

**NFL matchups**

Fire up these borderline wideouts this week:

- **Eric Decker vs. PIT:** We've been using wideouts against William Gay and Cortez Allen all year long.
- **Marques Colston vs. SF:** Thanks to Patrick Willis, the Niners do an excellent job on tight ends. Drew Brees will have to look to Colston.

**NFL news**

**Tre Mason earned 19 of the Rams' 23 running back carries in the Week 9 upset at San Francisco. Yet on Monday, Jeff Fisher still refused to name a starter. Don't buy it. Mason is separating here and the best news is that it's happening as the schedule finally eases up.**

**Pickups of the week**

Here are the best adds for Week 10:

- **Mark Sanchez, QB Eagles:** Was Nick Foles playing at an elite level? No. Was he lighting up the box score? Yes. Sanchez can do the same for Chip Kelly.
- **Terrance West, RB, Browns:** Cleveland coaches evaluated the tape and determined that West is their best back right now. Sweet dreams, Ben Tate.
- **Michael Vick, QB, Jets:** The spot doesn't get much better for Vick as he's home against a woeful Steelers defense primed for a letdown.

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Can Ryne Sandberg really put up with another season of Jonathan Papelbon's antics? / GETTY IMAGES

# Phils have offseason of decisions

**MLB.** In order for the Phillies to make noise in the offseason they'll have to move some very expensive players.

There's always surprises during the offseason and the Phillies have already experienced one.

A.J. Burnett walked away from a guaranteed $12.75 million to pitch for the Phillies next season.

Sure, it wouldn't be surprising if Burnett retires, but nearly $13 million is a staggering amount to walk away from, especially after posting some of the worst numbers in baseball.

According to his agent, Burnett, who despite leading the majors in losses (18), walks (96) and earned runs allowed (109) is still hoping to sign with a contender next season.

But what will the next surprise be? The biggest one would be a Ryan Howard trade.

"I'll believe it when I see it," an NL scout said. "Who would take on that deal?"

The next surprise would be Howard's release?

"I can't see that either, since they would have to eat $60 million and he would DH for an AL club, essentially for free," the NL scout said. "It would be beyond a Yankee move to eat that much money."

Don't bet on a trade of Jonathan Papelbon. The Phils owe too much money to a bad guy in the clubhouse who is a decent but hardly great pitcher.

A deal involving Chase Utley or Jimmy Rollins would take the fan base aback since both have full no-trade clauses.

"I love playing here," Rollins said at the end of the season.

Utley is apparently also fond of the only organization he's ever known.

"The Phillies certainly have a lot to figure out for 2015," the NL scout said. "They're just getting started. It will be interesting what they do."

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**By the numbers**

## $180M

The Phillies' opening day payroll was just over $180 million, the third highest in baseball behind the Dodgers and Yankees. For all that dough, the team got just 73 wins and finished dead last in the NL East.

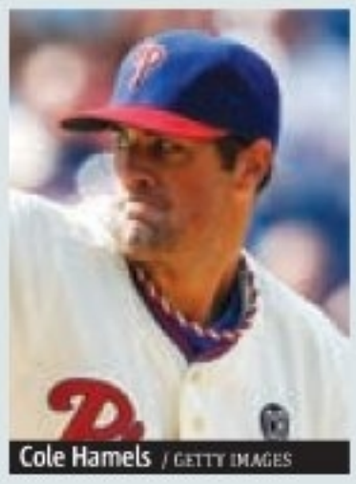
**Home for Hamels**

## Don't expect Hamels to be traded away

Even though Ruben Amaro stated that no one is untouchable, it would be a huge surprise if the general manager had the cajones to deal Cole Hamels.

"That would be a huge risk," an NL scout said. "If it's a repeat of the Cliff Lee deal [in which the Phillies received three players who failed to make an impact], then that sets that franchise way back. Who wouldn't want Hamels? But would a team truly give up enough for him?"

It would raise quite a few eyebrows if the Phillies signed an impact free agent, with the exceptions of Yasmani Tomas, a young outfielder with the kind of pop to his bat the Phils desperately need, or perhaps Ervin Santana, who would make for a solid No. 3 starter.



Cole Hamels / GETTY IMAGES

It would be a surprise if Darin Ruf is mentioned in plans for 2015. Amaro recently stated how the youth movement includes Ben Revere, and even offensively challenged Freddy Galvis and Domonic Brown.

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# No end in sight

There is no lack of hustle for Tony Wroten and the youthful Sixers — they're just missing NBA experience. / GETTY IMAGES

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# for lowly, winless Sixers

**NBA.** The 76ers fell painfully short of their first win at the buzzer Wednesday, and the team might not have a real chance to win for quite some time.

The results shouldn't be surprising, not even Wednesday night's disheartening two-point loss to the previously winless Orlando Magic.

Glance up and down the 76ers roster and there's youth — lots and lots of youth. There are undrafted players such as Henry Sims and Hollis Thompson. There are players such as Nerlens Noel competing in the NBA for the first time.

Noel exited the Magic loss with a sprained left ankle and his availability for upcoming games is unclear.

The Sixers have played five games. They're 0-5. It's their first 0-5 start since 2001-02, the year after Allen Iverson carried the Sixers to the NBA Finals. Iverson was injured at the beginning of the '01-02 season and the Sixers dropped five in a row.

This group of Sixers is much different. It's going to take a near-perfect game for them to win. How does coach Brett Brown judge their progress?

"I think I would answer that in two ways," Brown said. "I would first go to the individuals … [Improvement from] the pieces are a fair judgment. What I hope, from a team standpoint, is that people say, 'They're getting better defensively,' because we were poor last year. I think the numbers will bear out that we are trying to build and grow a defensive program."

Before Noel was injured against the Magic, he played a solid game in Monday's loss to the Houston Rockets. His matchup against Dwight Howard was a gargantuan task.

"I think he deserves a lot of praise," Brown said. "He had to front Dwight Howard and make him work, and for him to run the floor and show personality and a level of passion, that's what I think this city will end up falling in love with. He had six steals and five assists, which is really good. He was in the game."

But Noel came down with just one rebound.

"When you're leaning on people so much trying to box out and playing in front of people, [Noel] doesn't have the luxury of being a free safety and chasing balls," Brown said.

Every night is going to be a learning opportunity.

"It was definitely a new experience," Noel said. "I never played anyone that big and I'm sure no one ever plays against someone that big."

As they set out to get their first win of the season, it's about finding ways to improve individually and as a team. This won't be easy.

"I think we're all on the same page in terms of working together and wanting the same things," said Tony Wroten, who has filled in admirably while Michael Carter-Williams continues to rehab from offseason labrum surgery. "We're all sticking together. We're all working hard every day and listening to the coaches. We want to do well so badly. We're all in this together."

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

**Quoted**

**"Maybe when he starts to get bigger and learns the NBA and the angles of shots you can say, 'Nerlens, don't worry about blocks. Just go out and chase balls. You're a 6-foot-11 athlete.'"** Brett Brown, on Nerlens Noel

**Tough road ahead**

**Philadelphia could very well be 0-10 before hosting the Boston Celtics on Nov. 19.**

- The Sixers will host Joakim Noah and the Bulls on Friday night before a four-game road trip against the Toronto Raptors, Dallas Mavericks, Houston Rockets and San Antonio Spurs.
- It seems possible that they could challenge their own dubious mark of 9-73 back in 1972-73.


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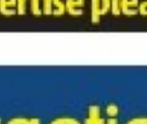

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